

Nahum

□1Π1

merged

<https://www.sefaria.org/Nahum>

This file contains merged sections from the following text versions:

-THE JPS TANAKH: Gender-Sensitive Edition

-<https://jps.org/books/the-jps-tanakh-gender-sensitive-edition/>

Nahum

## Chapter 1

A pronouncement on Nineveh: The Book of the Prophecy of Nahum the Elkoshite.

The ETERNAL is a passionate, avenging God; GOD is vengeful and fierce in wrath. GOD takes vengeance on opponents, And rages against foes. GOD is slow to anger and of great forbearance, But GOD does not remit all punishment. [God] travels in whirlwind and storm, With clouds the dust on divine feet.

[God] rebukes the sea and dries it up, And makes all rivers fail; Bashan and Carmel languish, And the blossoms a blossoms Lit. "bud." of Lebanon wither.

The mountains quake because of [God], And the hills melt. The earth heaves b heaves Meaning of Heb. uncertain. before [God], The world and all that dwell therein.

Who can stand before God's wrath? Who can resist such fury? God's anger pours out like fire, And rocks are shattered as a result.

GOD is good to [those who have hope], And is a haven on a day of distress— Being mindful of those seeking refuge.

And with a sweeping flood [God] makes an end of her place, c her place Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields "those who oppose [God]." And chases enemies into the darkness.

Why will you d you I.e., Assyria, whose capital is Nineveh; cf. v. 1. plot against GOD? Utter destruction is the outcome: No adversary e adversary Cf. Ugaritic šrt. opposes [God] twice!

f Meaning of verse uncertain. For like those besotted with drink, They are burned up like tangled thorns, Like straw that is thoroughly dried.

g Verses 11-14 would read well after 2.1. The base plotter Who designed evil against GOD Has left you. h you I.e., the kingdom of Judah.

Thus said GOD : "Even as those days i those days Of your affliction; Heb. "they." were full and many, Even so are they over and gone; As surely as I afflicted you, I will afflict you no more. j Even as ... no more Meaning of Heb. uncertain.

And now I will break off his k his I.e., Assyria's. yoke bar from you And burst your cords apart."

GOD has commanded concerning him: l him Heb. "you"; cf. v. 9. No posterity shall continue your name. m No posterity shall continue your name Meaning of Heb. uncertain. I will do away with The carved and graven images In the temples of your gods; I will make your grave Accord with your worthlessness. n Accord with your worthlessness Meaning of Heb. uncertain.

## Chapter 2

Behold on the hills The footsteps of a herald Announcing good fortune!

"Celebrate your festivals, O Judah, Fulfill your vows. Never again shall scoundrels invade you, They have totally vanished."

a This verse would read well after v. 3. A shatterer has come up against you. b you I.e., Nineveh; cf. 1.1. Put up the guard posts, Watch the road; Steady your loins, Brace all your strength! For G OD has restored the Pride c Pride Emendation yields "vine." of Jacob d Jacob...Israel Respectively, the northern kingdom (cf. Amos 6.8; 8.7) and the southern kingdom. The latter is regarded as the remnant of Israel after the fall of the northern kingdom (cf. Mic. 1.13-15). As well as the Pride e Pride See first note at this verse. of Israel, Though marauders have laid them waste And ravaged their branches. His f His I.e., the shatterer in v. 2. warriors' shields are painted red, And the soldiers are clothed in crimson; The chariots are like flaming torches, g torches Understanding peladoth as equivalent to lappidoth. On the day they are made ready. The [arrows of] cypress wood are poisoned, h The [arrows of] cypress wood are poisoned Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields "The cavalry charge"; cf. 3.3. The chariots dash about frenzied in the fields, They rush through the meadows. They appear like torches, They race like streaks of lightning. i Meaning of verse uncertain. He commands his burly men; They stumble as they advance, They hasten up to her wall, Where wheeled shelters j wheeled shelters To protect the crews that swung the battering rams. are set up. The floodgates are opened, And the palace is deluged. k The floodgates are opened, / And the palace is deluged I.e., the walls are breached and the palace is overrun. And Huzzab is exiled and carried away, l And Huzzab is exiled and carried away Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields "And its mistress is led out and exiled." While her handmaidens escort [her] m escort [her] Emendation yields "moan." As with the voices of doves, Beating their breasts. Nineveh has been like a [placid] pool of water From earliest times; n From earliest times Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Now they flee. "Stop! Stop!"— But none can turn them back. "Plunder silver! Plunder gold!" There is no limit to the treasure; It is a hoard of all precious objects. Desolation, devastation, and destruction! Spirits sink, Knees buckle, All loins tremble, All faces turn ashen. o turn ashen Meaning of Heb. uncertain; cf. note at Joel 2.6. What has become of that lions' den, That pasture p pasture Emendation yields "cave." of great beasts, Where lion and lion's breed walked, And lion's cub—with none to disturb them? [Where is] the lion that tore victims for its cubs And strangled for the lionesses, And filled its lairs with prey And its dens with mangled flesh? I am going to deal with you —declares G OD of Hosts: I will burn down her chariots in smoke, q her chariots in smoke Emendation yields "your thicket in fire." And the sword shall devour your great beasts; I will stamp out your killings from the earth, And the sound of your messengers r messengers Emendation yields "devouring." Shall be heard no more.

### Chapter 3

Ah, city of crime, Utterly treacherous, Full of violence, Where killing never stops! Crack of whip And rattle of wheel, Galloping steed And bounding chariot! Charging cavalry, Flashing swords, And glittering spears! Hosts of slain And heaps of corpses, Dead bodies without number— They stumble over bodies. Because of the countless whoredoms of the whore, The winsome mistress of sorcery, Who ensnared a ensnared Meaning of Heb. uncertain. nations with her whoredoms And peoples with her sorcery,

I am going to deal with you —declares G OD of Hosts. I will lift up your skirts over your face And display your nakedness to the nations And your shame to kingdoms.

I will throw loathsome things over you And disfigure you And make a spectacle of you.

All who see you will recoil from you And will say, "Nineveh has been ravaged!" Who will console her? Where shall I look for Anyone to comfort you?

Were you any better than No-amon, b No-amon Amon was the tutelary deity of No (Thebes; cf. Jer. 46.25), which the Assyrians had sacked in 663 B CE. Which sat by the Nile, Surrounded by water— Its rampart a river, c river Heb. "sea." Its wall consisting of sea?

Populous Cush And teeming Egypt, Put and the Libyans— They were her d her Heb. "your." helpers.

Yet even she was exiled, She went into captivity. Her babes, too, were dashed in pieces At every street corner. Lots were cast for her nobles, And all her dignitaries were bound in chains.

You too shall be drunk And utterly overcome; e overcome Meaning of Heb. uncertain. You too shall seek A refuge from the enemy.

All your forts are fig trees With f With Emendation yields "Your troops are"; cf. next verse. ripe fruit; If shaken they will fall Into the mouths of devourers.

Truly, the troops within you are women; The gates of your land have opened themselves To your enemies; Fire has consumed your gate bars. Draw water for the siege, Strengthen your forts; Tread the clay, Trample the mud, Grasp the brick mold!

There fire will devour you, The sword will put an end to you; It will devour you like the grub. Multiply like grubs, Multiply like locusts! g Multiply like grubs, Multiply like locusts Meaning of Heb. uncertain. You had more traders Than the sky has stars— The grubs cast their skins and fly away.

Your guards were like locusts, Your marshals like piles of hoppers That settle on the stone fences On a chilly day; When the sun comes out, they fly away, And where they are nobody knows.

Your shepherds are slumbering, O king of Assyria; Your sheepmasters are lying inert; h lying inert Lit. "dwelling"; emendation yields "asleep." Your people are scattered i scattered Meaning of Heb. uncertain. over the hills, And there is none to gather them.

There is no healing j healing Heb. kehah, a variant of gehah ; see Prov. 17.22. for your injury; Your wound is grievous. All who hear the news about you Clap their hands over you. For who has not suffered From your constant malice?